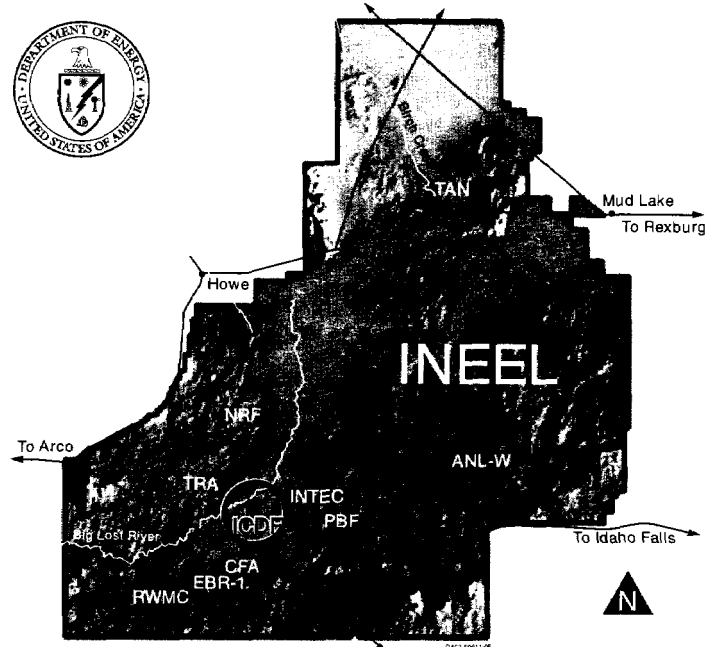


# Update on the Progress of the INEEL CERCLA Disposal Facility



The U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality are announcing construction completion of the first landfill disposal cell designed to consolidate on-site contaminated soil and debris from INEEL environmental cleanup activities, as well as associated evaporation ponds. The construction of the disposal complex and the cleanup of sites is taking place under the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, otherwise known as CERCLA or Superfund. The facility is located the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and is known as the INEEL CERCLA Disposal Facility (ICDF).

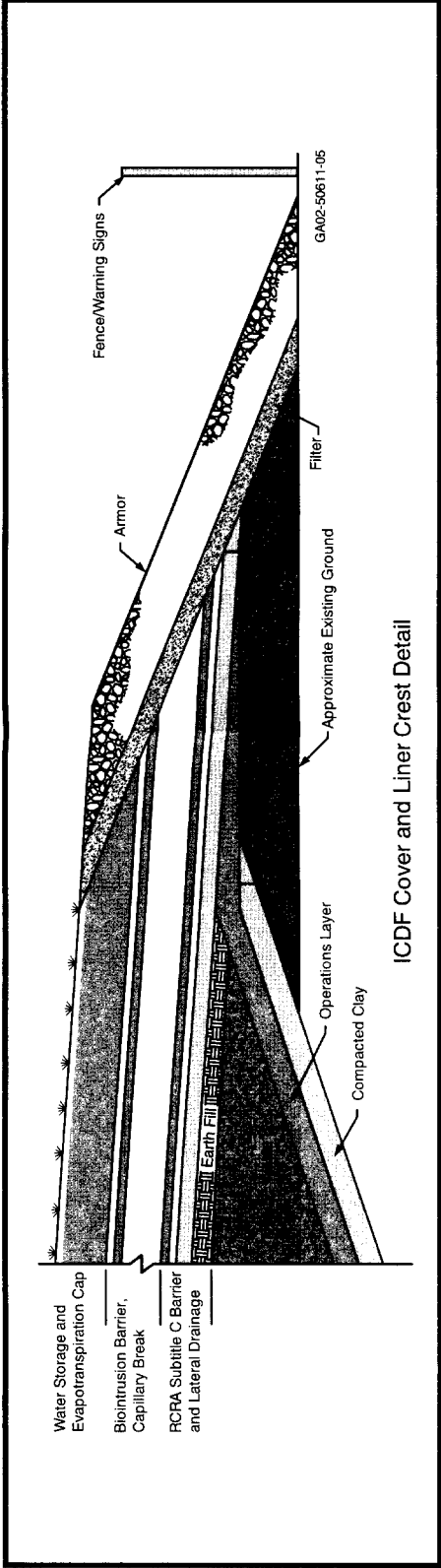
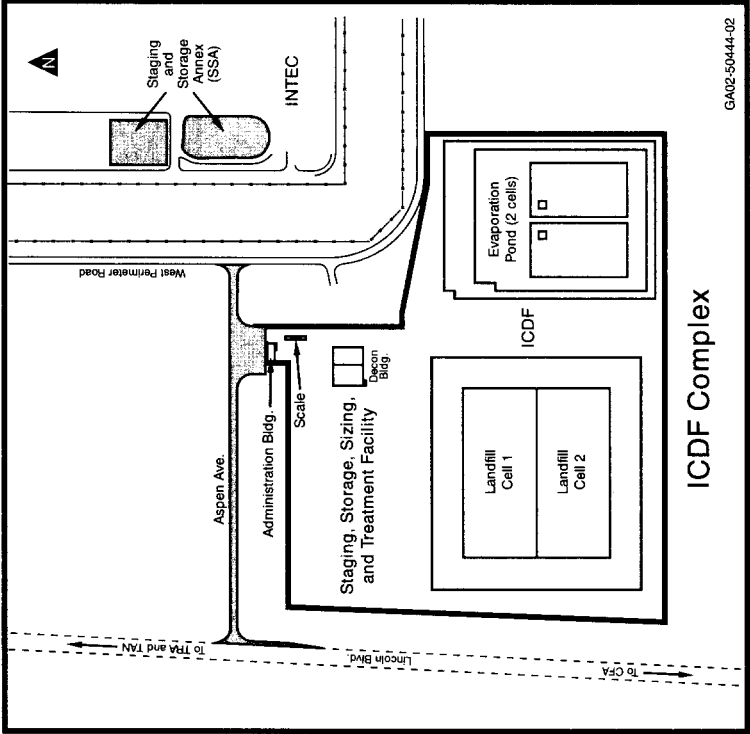
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The agencies plan to hold an information workshop on May 20, 2003, from 5 to 8 p.m. The workshop will take place at the Ameritel Inn at 645 Lindsay Boulevard in Idaho Falls. The May 20 workshop will address the facility operations, waste acceptance criteria, and the waste verification process. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss how the ICDF will be managed and operated. The format will be similar to the past workshops held in 2001, where the agencies discussed issues concerning the design. This format allows agency and contractor staff to discuss the project and answer questions.

Topics the agencies will cover include:

- Waste acceptance criteria for the ICDF complex, which consists of the landfill, evaporation ponds, and the Staging, Storage, Sizing, and Treatment Facility (SSSTF)
- Waste verification process
- Waste flow from source facilities to the landfill



ICDF Cover and Liner Crest Detail

## Background

The agencies signed a Record of Decision in October 1999 for remediation at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC). A Record of Decision is a commitment by the agencies to perform selected remedial actions, chosen in accordance with the CERCLA process. The consolidation and management of INEEL-wide CERCLA wastes scattered around INTEC and other on-site areas at an engineered facility called the ICDF was one of the remedial decisions made by the agencies.

The ICDF complex is located outside the 100-year flood plain and will be operated to consolidate primarily low-level cesium-contaminated soils from across the INEEL, which are not currently protected from wind, rain and snowmelt. The complex includes waste storage and treatment areas, a landfill, and two evaporation ponds to manage landfill leachate and other liquids. The ICDF landfill (for soil and debris) and evaporation ponds (for liquids only) are engineered facilities for hazardous and radioactive contaminants. To protect the Snake River Plain aquifer located 450 feet below, a system of multiple liners and liquid collection and diversion points is part of the design. This will prevent contaminants from migrating below the bottom of the landfill or evaporation ponds and threatening the aquifer.

Members of the public who wish to attend the workshop will be able to speak with project staff about progress on the project, including the progress in constructing and preparing to operate an environmentally responsible waste management and consolidation area for INEEL CERCLA wastes. Details will be available on the criteria for accepting or rejecting wastes, which ensures protection of the aquifer, human health and the environment.

DOE-Idaho plans to open the ICDF cell 1 for disposal of contaminated soil in the summer of 2003, following a contractor management self-assessment and a pre-final inspection by the agencies. The Staging, Storage, Sizing and Treatment Facility, which consists of ancillary structures to support the operation of the ICDF landfill operations, is still under construction and will require a separate management self-assessment and pre-final inspection by the agencies prior to becoming operational. DOE anticipates that the treatment facility will be operational in the fall of 2003.

The agencies encourage your participation in this workshop. For more information on this project or further details on the upcoming workshop, please contact the INEEL Community Relations Office at (208) 526-3183 or (800) 708-2680.